

now he has kept the Iditarod championship in the family for another year.

Mitch Seavey may have claimed the Iditarod title in Nome, but getting to that point takes preparation and training that begins months if not years in advance. I would like to congratulate Mitch for all of his hard work and for claiming his second Iditarod title.

I would also like to thank the Iditarod trail team, the many volunteers who came from around the country, the veterinarians, the Iditarod Air Force, and everyone else who has worked to ensure the safety and maintenance of the Iditarod trail and the safety of the dedicated athletes and canines that welcome the challenge. Their efforts are often underrated, but their commitment is resolute. My prayers go out to the families of Carolyn and Rosemarie Sorvoja, and pilot Ted Smith, who lost their lives in a tragic plane crash as they made their way to the eighth check point of Takotna. They had traveled hundreds of miles from the Anchorage area, in hopes of volunteering on the trail. Every volunteer knows the risks associated with their efforts to ensure the safety of others and the success of the Iditarod, but I am surprised each year at how many line up to serve in the face of rugged and extreme Alaskan conditions. This is now a time to remember and honor their efforts, and congratulate Mitch Seavey.

I am proud to congratulate the Seavey team on this amazing accomplishment and historic milestone. I send my best wishes to Mitch and the whole Seavey family as they celebrate this well-deserved victory in Alaska's great race.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ASCENT OF DENALI CENTENNIAL

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the centennial anniversary of the first successful ascent of the south peak of Mount McKinley. In Alaska, the mountain is popularly known as Denali, which means the "Great One" in Dena'ina language. At 20,320 feet, the south peak is the tallest of its two peaks, and makes Mount McKinley North America's tallest mountain.

Although other climbers attempted the climb or claimed to have summited McKinley before 1913, Walter Harper, Hudson Stuck, Robert Tatum, and Harry Karstens were the first to complete their journey to the top. Among the party, it was Harper, an Athabaskan, who was the first to stand on the south summit after a month-long expedition that started with a mush from Fairbanks by a dog team.

The unsung hero of this accomplishment was another Alaska Native, 16-year-old John Fredson, who travelled with the group and cared for the sled dogs at base camp while waiting for the climbing team to return. This story of triumph and courage underscores the importance of Alaska Natives in the great age of American exploration.

To commemorate the centennial, the Denali 2013 Centennial Climb has been organized. The official party's ascent will commence June 7, 2013, and includes ancestors of the original team: Dana Wright of Fairbanks, the great-grandnephew of Harper; Dan Hopkins, from Ottawa, Ontario, who is the great-great-nephew of Stuck; Ken Karstens, from Colorado; and Ray Schuenemann, from Dallas, Texas, both of whom are great-grandsons of Karstens.

Stuck was a missionary for the Episcopal Church and Archdeacon of the Yukon back in 1913. Stuck had hoped to celebrate communion atop the peak. As part of the recreation of the historic ascent, Mark Lattime, the Episcopal Bishop of Alaska and Reverend at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Fairbanks, will join the climbing party and celebrate communion at the peak.

The spirit of adventure is something that we embrace as Alaskans and Americans. Let us take this moment to acknowledge this significant achievement of our predecessors and wish the 2013 party a safe and successful climb.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MARK E. WEATHERINGTON

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the service of Col. Mark E. Weatherington, who will be ending his command at Ellsworth Air Force Base in early April.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Weatherington has served in many leadership and flying positions over his impressive 23-year career. He is a B-1 pilot with 2,400 flight hours. Among his many assignments, Colonel Weatherington has served as commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at both Ellsworth AFB and Dyess AFB; served as chief of staff of the Air Force Fellow; was a National Defense Fellow with the Brookings Institution; and previously served at Ellsworth AFB as chief of weapons and tactics and then assistant operations officer of the 77th Bomb Squadron and wing weapons officer of the 28th Operations Support Squadron.

Colonel Weatherington has served as commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, the largest B-1 combat wing in the U.S. Air Force, since May 2011. He has distinguished himself during his 2-year stint at the South Dakota installation. He has provided expert guidance during the process to bring the first MQ-9 Reaper squadron, the 432nd Attack Squadron, to Ellsworth Air Force Base, while maintaining the great legacy of the B-1 aircraft and the personnel of the 28th Bomb Wing. Last year, Colonel Weatherington presided over Ellsworth Air Force Base's 70th Anniversary festivities.

Colonel Weatherington's current stint at Ellsworth Air Force Base has lasted just shy of 2 years, but he has provided a lasting impact, overseeing 4,300 military and civilian personnel in the day-to-day operations of the base,

as well as the ongoing rotation of airmen to overseas action in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has maintained a strong relationship between the Base and Black Hills communities, namely Rapid City and Box Elder. For decades there has been a very warm and cordial relationship between Black Hills residents, businesses, and charitable organizations and the personnel and leadership command of Ellsworth Air Force Base. Colonel Weatherington has been committed to maintaining this bond. The relationship between the civilian and military communities remains very strong, and this relationship continues to make the Black Hills a great retirement option for military retirees who once served at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Colonel Weatherington will now move to the Pentagon where he will serve as Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ashton Carter. This role will bring new challenges and responsibilities, but I know the leadership, professionalism, and stewardship Colonel Weatherington showed during his time at Ellsworth Air Force Base will serve him well at the Pentagon and throughout his career. I commend Colonel Weatherington for his service to Ellsworth Air Force Base and his continued service to the U.S. Air Force. I wish him, Stephanie, and their family all the best in future endeavors.●

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to an effort spearheaded by a native West Virginian, Mr. William J. Friedman. I ask to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the West Virginia-House Concurrent Resolution No. 74, which was passed by the West Virginia State Legislature on March 12, 2012, detailing his efforts.

Mr. Friedman is a proud West Virginian. He is the longest tenured member of the National Democratic Club, and founder of both the 116 Club and the prestigious Georgetown Club.

According to his colleagues, Mr. Friedman is also a veteran who served this country in the Korean War and lived in Africa for almost 15 years. Mr. Friedman was present during a number of movements within the region; including the civil war in Mozambique and the dismantling of South African apartheid.

I am informed that Mr. Friedman served his country abroad by investing millions in the country of Mozambique with hopes of spreading American style capitalism and creating hundreds of jobs.

Further, I am told that Mr. Friedman was inspired by Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano, which led to his relocation to Mozambique. At the time, Mozambique was in midst of a bloody civil war. Even so, Mr. Friedman assisted the newly appointed Presi-

dent to develop relationships with western nations.

Mr. Friedman has said that he invested millions of dollars to promote free enterprise in Mozambique. Accordingly, I am told that Mr. Friedman established the first direct foreign investment with Overseas Private Investment Corporation insurance in the country of Mozambique.

Mr. Friedman continued investing in the country until Mozambique held its first multi-party elections and, as a result, Joaquim Chissano was elected President of the Republic of Mozambique.

As a U.S. Senator, it is such an honor to serve the great people of West Virginia and to bring attention to their special efforts. I always say that the people of West Virginia are some of the most patriotic in the country.

The resolution follows:

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, LEGISLATIVE
RESOLUTION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

[By Delegates Canterbury, Armstead, T. Campbell, Carmichael, Evans, Gearheart, Hamilton, C. Miller, Nelson, Sigler, Sumner and Walters]

[Adopted by the Legislature, March 9, 2012]

Requesting the Congressional Delegation from the State of West Virginia to ask the United States Department of State to make certain demands on the government of the United Arab Emirates.

Whereas, The Government of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates is in arrears on certain of its sovereign obligations; and

Whereas, Some West Virginians are in possession of bonds issued by the Government of Abu Dhabi, bonds that are now in arrears and at risk of default; and

Whereas, Repayment of these bonds by the Government of Abu Dhabi would result in significant tax revenues to the State of West Virginia and also return investors' capital for reinvestment in significant new projects in West Virginia; and

Whereas, Members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation have attempted to resolve this matter with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, D.C, but without result; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That West Virginia Congressional Delegation be requested to communicate further to the United States Department of State; and, be it

Further Resolved, That, pursuant to the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, Paragraph 3, which bestows on the United States Congress the duty to regulate commerce with foreign nations, the Congressional Delegation from the State of West Virginia should renew their resolve and ask their Congressional colleagues and every United States legislator, on a bipartisan basis, to ask the United States Department of State to demand that the government of the United Arab Emirates honor and pay their sovereign financial obligations that are guaranteed by the Government of Abu Dhabi as evidenced by bonds signed by their own officials.

I, Gregory M. Gray, Clerk of the House of Delegates, and as such Clerk, Keeper of the Rolls of the Legislature of West Virginia, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of House Concurrent Resolution 74, which was adopted by the Legislature on the 9th day of March, 2012.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIAN
DAVIDSON

● As a huge crowd gathered on February 4, 2013, at the memorial service

for my good friend, Dr. Julian Davidson of Huntsville, AL, in the magnificent Davidson Center for Space Exploration that bears his name, beside the Saturn V rocket, I had to take a moment to consider its power and the impact its development made on the world. Our space program is the world's greatest technological achievement.

Less appreciated is the monumental technological achievement of our Nation's National Missile Defense System along with all the other shorter range missile systems that now protect the Nation from attack and accidental launch. Sixteen years ago, campaigning, I would ask people what we would do if a nuclear missile were launched at us. Usually, someone would say we would shoot it down. That is the correct answer today, but not then. No such system had then been deployed but people were working on it.

Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson wrote a book, *Present at the Creation*, about the creation of our long lasting foreign policy framework. My friend, Dr. Julian Davidson, was present and creating at the creation of our colossal, highly technical and effective global missile defense system. It is accurate to call him the "father of missile defense." And, like a good father, he nurtured the program to maturity for 50 years. As an Army Civilian and as a business professional, he was a constant and leading force for this amazing accomplishment. Launch vehicles in Alaska and California, radar detection systems worldwide, and incredibly complex computer systems allow this Nation to identify, track, and hit to kill a hostile or accidental missile aimed to damage our Nation.

People doubted it would work, mocked it as Star Wars, but the political center held and aided by the scientific and political skills of Julian and others the system is now in place. Trust me—it was a near run thing. Since Ronald Reagan, it has remained a sore spot for Vladimir Putin and a major strategic development.

This modest, unassuming, gentle but brilliant, strong and determined man carried the day. And, blessedly, he could take pride and satisfaction in actually seeing it proven and deployed. This was a truly historic achievement.

As a new Senator, elected in 1996, I was aware of Julian's importance to Huntsville and national defense. But as the years passed, I came to understand more about his remarkable career and why he was so loved and respected. For me, and for so many, his importance transcends the leadership he has provided to science and technology, to our Nation's being dominant in the world in missile defense technology and systems, and to our national security—it is personal. He touched so many lives in positive and important ways. My respect for his knowledge, his unbiased, sound insight, just continued to grow. I was in awe of this small man who had done so much, knew so much, and who was so admired in the Defense Department, the defense industry, and in

Huntsville. I was honored that he became a true friend and he gave me his time and insight as he did for so many others.

Last year, I talked with Admiral Syring about his appointment to be the new MDA Commander, the agency Julian first directed. When I met with Admiral Syring, I asked that he do only one thing. I asked him to have a good visit with Julian and promised him he would enjoy and benefit from it. Admiral later said they had a wonderful afternoon.

Now, Julian did love politics and there was an unusual purity about his politics. It was an extension of his love for America, I think. First and foremost, Julian was a patriot. He was passionately committed to classical American values.

Julian felt that his country had been good to him, that it was a positive force in the world, and that it required civic support and direction. He was always there to give that support and direction.

Julian was proud of Davidson Technologies and the 200 engineers and people who worked with him there. He made it a premier missile technology and systems engineering firm in a very short time. His main goal was for the company to meet and exceed contract requirements, to be successful, and, importantly, so his people could prosper and be fulfilled and do their work with integrity. He was very proud that he had created a work environment second to none in Huntsville. The company was good to him and he was grateful.

Julian was exceedingly generous to Huntsville, the place he called home. The Davidson Center for Space Exploration is a dramatic example of that generosity. He and Dorothy were also great friends of the arts—making major gifts to the Davidson Center for the Arts, the Huntsville Symphony, the Child Advocacy Center and many other good causes. Their long and true partnership was exceedingly important in business and civic affairs. Extremely talented in her own right, Dorothy loved and admired Julian as he did her. This bond was a key to his success.

Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO of the Space and Rocket Center said, "Dorothy and Julian Davidson are renaissance people who care passionately about the advancement of technology, the arts, and the Huntsville community." Truly so.

So, the gentle, humble man from Oakman, Walker County, AL, son of a store owner, went forth and accomplished great things. And he did it without bluster, without ego, and without selfishness. He did it with skill, hard work, good judgment, honest dealing and respect for his fellow man. He did it all with a full dose of that critical quality—integrity. He believed in work. He was blessed to continue his productive work until his last days.